

League of Catholic Women Building

100 Parsons

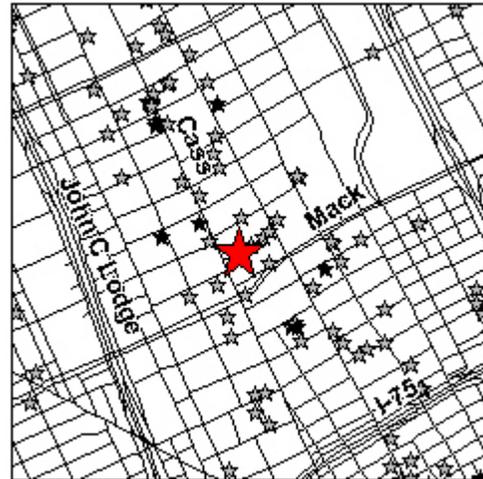
Current name: Casgrain Hall, Activities Building

Local

State

State Marker

National ✓ 9/22/97



100 Parsons

Historic overview:

Completed in 1928, at that time the League of Catholic Women Building was the only building of its size and type erected by a group of organized women. The building was designed by the prominent Detroit architectural firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, and is of the Neo-Georgian style.

The League of Catholic Women, a charitable organization affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church, was organized in 1906 as the Weinman Club. The group was renamed the Catholic Settlement Association in 1911 and reorganized and incorporated in 1915 as the League of Catholic Women. The League brought together Catholic women from all over the city to assist single young women seeking employment in the city. In 1928 their membership equaled 12,000. The League's investment in the building was over one million dollars. It also offered accommodations for 250 women between the ages of 18 and 30 who were new to Detroit and earning less than \$150 per month or \$1,800 per year. Room and board ranged from \$8.50 to \$15.00 per month. The building also housed the League's offices.

The building offered amenities including a cafeteria with the ability to serve 1200 meals daily, a chapel, library, ballroom, auditorium and a roof top garden. Classes on topics such as home economics, millinery, and sewing were also offered. Over the years the League's mission and activities evolved to meet women's needs. The League began providing housing for women attending Wayne State University's School of Nursing in the 1960s. The building was later converted to 83 units of senior housing in 1981.

